

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A probe pin cleaning device comprising:

a fixing member for fixing a probe pin;

~~a supporting member placed on the bottom of the cleaning container for supporting the fixing member;~~

a cleaning container for containing a cleaning solution;

~~a supporting member placed on a bottom of the cleaning container for supporting the fixing member; and~~

an ultrasonic vibration generating means for generating ultrasonic vibrations directed to the cleaning solution,

wherein the supporting member supports the fixing member above the cleaning solution such that a stylus portion of the probe pin is immersed in the cleaning solution.

2. (previously presented): The probe pin cleaning device according to Claim 1, wherein the cleaning solution includes ethyl alcohol.

3. (previously presented): The probe pin cleaning device according to Claim 2, comprising an ultraviolet irradiating means for irradiating the stylus portion of the probe pin with ultraviolet rays for detecting the presence or absence of a foreign particle on the stylus portion.

4. (previously presented/withdrawn): The probe pin cleaning device according to Claim 3, comprising a reflective mirror that is provided on the bottom of the cleaning container containing the cleaning solution, reflects the ultraviolet rays from the ultraviolet irradiating means, and applies the rays to the stylus portion of the probe pin.

5. (previously presented/withdrawn): The probe pin cleaning device according to Claim 3, comprising an image recognizing means for recognizing the image of the stylus portion of the probe pin which is irradiated with the ultraviolet rays, and thereby detects the presence or absence of a foreign particle on the probe pin.

6. (previously presented/withdrawn): The probe pin cleaning device according to Claim 5, comprising:

a checking means for checking whether or not the stylus portion of the probe pin fixed on the fixing member is immersed in the cleaning solution; and

an elevating means for changing the position of the stylus portion of the probe pin with respect to the level of the cleaning solution depending on the checking information given by the checking means.

7. (previously presented): A probe pin cleaning device comprising:

a fixing member for fixing a probe pin;

a supporting member placed on the bottom of the cleaning container for supporting the fixing member;

a cleaning container for containing a cleaning solution; and

an ultrasonic vibration generator which generates ultrasonic vibrations directed to the cleaning solution,

wherein the supporting member supports the fixing member above the cleaning solution such that a stylus portion of the probe pin is immersed in the cleaning solution.

8. (previously presented): The probe pin cleaning device according to Claim 7, wherein the cleaning solution includes ethyl alcohol.

9. (previously presented): The probe pin cleaning device according to Claim 8, comprising an ultraviolet irradiator which irradiates the stylus portion of the probe pin with ultraviolet rays for detecting the presence or absence of a foreign particle on the stylus portion.